

INTRODUCTION

Advanced users of EnSight often find themselves performing repetitive tasks. EnSight’s macro facility lets you save a sequence of commands and then assign a keyboard key or mouse button to those commands such that they are executed when the key or button is pressed.

Pressing a key/button assigned to a macro causes the associated command file to be read and executed. Depending on how it is set up, a macro can execute it’s file in one of three ways:

1. The command file is executed once for each key/button press. This mode is useful for one-time operations such as cutting flipbook animation on/off or saving an image.
2. The command file repeatedly executes as long as the key/button is held down. This is useful for operations that are continuous in nature, such as rotating around the Y axis by 5 degrees.
3. Multiple command files execute in a cycle for each keystroke or mouse button click.

Note: In the 7.0 release, EnSight uses a separate utility program (macromake) to create macros. In a subsequent release, this facility will be integrated into the user interface.

BASIC OPERATION

The first step in creating macros is to save the various command sequences that perform the desired actions. See [How To Record and Play Command Files](#) for more information. Be careful as you perform the operations that are saved to the command files. Superfluous or errant commands will slow down macro operation or cause errors. You may wish to view the resulting command files with a text editor and possibly make changes.

Once created, you should move the command files to your `~/ .ensight7/macros` directory. Although not required, it is useful to be able to distinguish these files from others – a common suffix such as “`.mac`” is often used.

Once the command files are ready, run the macro utility program, `macromake`. The executable is located in the `$ENSIGHT7_HOME/bin` directory so it should already be in your command search path.

1. From a UNIX shell window, run macromake:

```
% macromake
```

The utility will print requests for action to the UNIX shell window. It also opens a graphics window (titled “Macromake”) that is used to capture keyboard and mouse event codes. The basic macro definition process is as follows:

2. Specify the keyboard/mouse action by moving the mouse pointer into the Macromake window and pressing the desired keyboard key or mouse button. The Macromake window will close.

3. Respond to the questions in the UNIX shell window:

How many command files are tied to this key?

Enter the number of command files that will execute (in turn) when the macro is executed.

Enter command file 1 to be tied to this key:

Enter the name of the first command file to execute. If the response to the first question was greater than one, then enter each subsequent command file name (in the desired order of execution) when prompted.

Is this a repeatable macro?

Answer `y` for a repeatable macro (executes continuously as long as the key/button is depressed) or `n` for single execution.

Do you wish to define another macro?

Answer `y` to define another macro or `n` to quit.

If EnSight is still running, you can click Reload Macros in the Command dialog (File > Command) to make your new macros active. Otherwise, they will be available during your next session of EnSight.



OTHER NOTES

The mapping from keys/buttons to command files is saved in the `macro.define` file. This file and associated macro command files are saved in your `~/ensight7/macros` directory. Your local EnSight administrator can also define a common set of macros that are located in the `$ENSIGHT7_HOME/site_preferences/macros/` directory. These macros (if present) will be read first, followed by user-specific macros. User-specific key/button assignments therefore take precedence over site macros.

SEE ALSO

[How To Record and Play Command Files](#)

User Manual: [Keyboard Macro Maker \(macromake\)](#)